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PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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District Health Launches New Web-based Child Care Inspection Results

South Central District Health has launched a new interactive web page that provides parents with access to child care facility inspections. The page may be accessed from the SCDH home page at www.phd5.idaho.gov under the “Child Care Facility Inspections” heading.

According to Melody Bowyer, Registered Environmental Health Specialist and Child Care Program Manager for South Central District Health, the new page is intended to provide parents with understandable information about child care facility inspections.

“We now include child care facility inspection data on our website and give the consumer an explanation of what certain violations mean,” said Bowyer. “The public can access names of the facilities we’ve inspected over the past several years, the dates of their inspections, a list of violations the establishment may have received, and what those violations mean.”

South Central District Health inspects 360 establishments each year, which include relative based, in-home based, and center based child care facilities in Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls counties. If a violation is found during an inspection, the facility is required to correct it immediately or, at the latest, within a 30-day period. A facility with a violation deemed a potential threat to the health and safety of a child receives an on-site follow-up inspection. All violations must be corrected in order for the facility to continue operating.

“Our goal is to make sure that the health and safety of children is being protected, and that is the goal of our local child care facilities as well,” said Bowyer. “We make our inspections educational, helpful, and culturally sensitive, and our child care facilities value the inspections as a way to assure they are providing healthy and safe care. In addition, we provide information from the Consumer Product Safety Commission about recalled child care products to keep dangerous products from being used in child care settings.”

For more information, call the South Central District Health Child Care Program in Twin Falls at 737-5909, or your local SCDH office.

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